

UNECE Group of Experts Coal Mine Methane Task Force on Safe Operations and Closure of Coal Mines

Fourth Meeting

15 February 2024

15:30 - 17:00 (Geneva time)

SUMMARY

Participants:

Task Force Chair:

- Alicja Krzemien

Task Force Members:

1. Sabina Assan
2. Peter Cain
3. Andrzej Chmiela
4. David Creedy
5. Alexandre D'Angelo
6. Pedro Riesgo Fernandez
7. Aida Haracic
8. Sherry Heschuk
9. Matjaz Kamenik
10. Ray Pilcher
11. Grzegorz Plonka
12. Alexey Shlyapin
13. Jiri Sterba
14. Clark Talkington
15. Genci Tomini

Secretariat:

- Michal Drabik
- Emir Farhad-zada

Agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Presentation of case studies on mine closure in Albania and the UK
4. Business models catalogue.
5. What's new (opportunity for TF members to bring to the TF's attention relevant recent or upcoming publications, meetings, projects, policies, etc.)
6. AOB
7. Next meeting
8. Closing meeting

Item 1. Opening of the meeting and welcome by the Chair of the Group

1. The Chair of the Task Force, Ms. Alicja Krzemien, opened the session.

Item 2. Adoption of the agenda.

2. The draft agenda was adopted with an extra point 4 added.

Item 3. Presentation of case studies on mine closure in Albania and the UK

3. Mr. Tomini presented a case study on mine closure in Albania focusing on Mushtaqa and Krraba coal mines. The document is available on [the webpage dedicated to the fourth meeting of the TF](#).

a. Mushtaqa, located 20 km from Tirana, had two levels with varying reserves. The first level, reaching depths of -530m to -240m, produced 80,000 tons per year, while the second level (-240m to -30m) had 5.3 million tons of reserves. Approximately 1 million tons was left in total on both levels after closure. Nowadays territory of Mushtaqa is used for farming purposes.

b. Krraba was the oldest mine in the country, with 400 employees at the peak of its production. Annual average output of coal was 33,000 tons. Its territory has been unusable after closure.

4. Mr. Creedy presented a case study on mine closure in the UK focusing on North Derbyshire coalfield. The document is available on [the webpage dedicated to the fourth meeting of the TF](#), as well as in the [shared folder of the Task Force](#).

a. Timescale was presented from nationalizing UK Coal Industry in 1947 to closing the last deep mine in the country in 2015.

b. Significant gas- and water-related risks associated with the closure were emphasized.

5. Q&A session was held after the presentations, featuring questions on closure plans, responsibilities related to closure, and challenges faced throughout the process.

6. Ms. Krzemień reminded participants that it was decided to produce a business model catalogue under the work done within this Task Force. A template for this document was prepared, and the first example was presented during the 2nd meeting of the TF. Under this point of the agenda, Mr. Riesgo Fernandez volunteered to deliver a presentation on the economic aspects of geothermal energy in Spain.

7. It was agreed that at the next session Mr. Chmiela will present a case study on difficulties with mine closure in Poland. In addition, it was proposed to discuss water-related problems in greater detail. Ms. Heschuk and the Chair of the TF offered to identify experts who could cover that subject.

Item 4. What's new?

8. No discussion took place under this agenda item.

Item 5. Any other business

9. The secretariat invited TF members to participate in the [Global Methane Forum 2024](#) that will be held on 18-21 March 2024 in Geneva. The registration for the event is already open and can be done [online](#). A brief summary of the event will be presented during the next session of the TF for those members who cannot join the meeting in Geneva.

Item 6. Next meeting

10. The date for the next meeting of the TF will be determined by the results of the poll that the secretariat will distribute among the TF members.

Item 7. Closing the meeting

11. The Chair and the secretariat thanked participants for their time and involvement in the call and closed the meeting.
